ABERDEEN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER: January 2006

Congratulations to one of our members on the award of the Admiral Cup of the Canadian Philatelic Society of GB, 2005, for his exhibit of "Retouches and Re-entries on the Original Die of the 2 Cents Carmine Value of the Admiral Issue, 1912".

The Treasurer thanks members who have paid their annual subscription promptly and respectfully reminds those few who are still outstanding.

This year's **Congress** of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies at the Dewar's Centre in Perth on 21 and 22 April will be hosted by the Caledonian PS which celebrates its centenary in 2006. Their commemorative cover will feature Stan Laurel and Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The Tom Rielly memorial lecture and display on 21 April will be given by Stuart Gardiner, whom you may recall came to Aberdeen and displayed revenues to us earlier this season. A new feature this year will be an Open Competition consisting of one-frame (16 page) entries with no constraints on subject matter except that at least two-thirds of the material included must relate to the posts. Visitors to the event will be invited to vote on their favourite entry, to decide the winner, with all entrants receiving a certificate of participation.

Quite a large contingent from Aberdeen went to **SCOTEX** at the SECC in Glasgow last October. The Scottish Philatelic Trade Association, which organises SCOTEX has decided to change the venue for 2006, incidentally making it more convenient for visitors from Aberdeen. The cost of the SECC has become prohibitive and the new venue is to be the Dewar's Centre, Perth, which has become an increasingly popular venue for Scottish philatelic events, presumably on grounds of cost, accessibility and the facilities provided. The last SCOTEX was very favourably reviewed in the philatelic trade magazine, which may perhaps have the effect of attracting more dealers from the south to the next event.

As you may have read in the philatelic press, autumn **STAMPEX** at the Design Centre, London, is no longer to be the event staging the UK national philatelic competitions. The reason is the withdrawal of financial support for the competitions by the British Philatelic Trust. Presumably, the Philatelic Traders' Society, which is responsible for STAMPEX, was not able to provide the necessary financial support. It was left to the Association of British Philatelic Societies to try to ensure that the British national competitions remain in being and the Association has decided to incorporate them into their biennial events, of which GLASGOW 2000 was the closest to home so far. The sixth ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition was already scheduled for Torquay on 24 and 25 November 2006. The organisers are apparently having to do some hasty reorganisation of the exhibits part of the event. The theme was originally intended to be Thematics, Revenues and Cinderella, plus the Inter-Federation competition, Literature and a Youth competition. This has now been expanded to include all disciplines, including traditional, postal history, aerophilately, postal stationery and social philately. Both national and international classes will be available, with a closing date for entries of 31 March 2006. The new home for the UK national competitions means that they will no longer be held annually, but every second year at the peripatetic ABPS exhibitions. Future venues under consideration are Leeds (2008), south London (2010) and Scotland in 2012. I was unable to be present at the last ASPS Delegates' meeting and I only found out by reading the minutes that I have been asked to coordinate the ASPS Inter-Federation entry at TORQUAY 2006, so I guess that I have a long train journey in prospect next year but will be able consequently to keep members informed.

Volunteers are sought to contribute to the Scottish entry in the **INTER-FED 2006** competition which normally includes disciplines other than those of the main exhibition. Entries in the competition at Torquay will consist of two frames each from any three of the following: traditional philately, postal history, aerophilately, postal stationary and social philately. Would anyone care to offer a two-frame (32 sheet) exhibit in any one of these categories? At this stage, I don't know how the three contributions will be selected. Any member of a Society

affiliated to ASPS is eligible but it would be very helpful to have preliminary expressions of willingness to participate.

STAMPEX in London has always been a twice-yearly trade event, a stamp fair, in the first instance, along with the twice-yearly PHILATEX. I was surprised to learn that another twice-yearly event is to be organised in north London, at **Alexandra Palace**, commencing April 2006.

Talking of stamp exhibitions, did you know that the Aberdeen Philatelic Society has a remarkable history of organising public exhibitions? They haven't happened recently, of course, but in the early years of the Society, they used to happen quite frequently in the Music Hall and the Art Gallery. In the first 50 years of the life of the Society, no less than fourteen such events were organised. Since then, there have only been two.

Who did bid? A recent auction report in a philatelic monthly records that an item was sold "after a hard-fought battle between a telephone bidder and a room didder"!

Has anyone ever heard of, let alone consulted, **the Hotson collection** or the Dunbar-Dunbar collections which are owned by the National Museums of Scotland in Chambers Street, Edinburgh? The Senior Curator of Numismatics in NMS is proposing that they be permanently loaned to the British Library in London, where they would be more professionally curated and perhaps more frequently consulted. Comments to the National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, if you are concerned about their transfer to a more distant site.

Robert Murray of the Stamp Shop in Ferry Road, Edinburgh, recently circulated philatelic societies, asking them to be sure to use commemorative stamps on mail. I certainly try to have a small stock of commems in hand for use on mail to collectors abroad, but most recent GB commems seem to be self-adhesives. I wonder how collectors who are interested in current stamps deal with self adhesives. They don't soak off in water, do they? Please enlighten me and I will circulate the answers, in case their is anyone else who is equally unaware!

Wildlife Stamp Weekend. A 40-frame exhibition of wildlife stamps will be held, appropriately, at Edinburgh Zoo from 10 to 13 February 2006. There will be a range of activities combining stamp collecting and wildlife organised by the Zoo's Education Officer and held in the excellent Education Centre located just above the famous penguin enclosures. Anyone able to attend, please report.

The Society acknowledged the generous **donation to the archive** of the Society's Certificate of Fellowship awarded in 1952 to Dr A.P. Imper. The certificate had been tightly wrapped in cellophane many years ago. Cellophane is not stable and had shrunk, causing the certificate to warp, fortunately with no permanent damage. It serves to remind us not to encase covers in cellophane without leaving space for contraction. Thanks also to a long time member for further donations to the archives. In case members have other memorabilia of the Society's past, please draw them to the attention of your Newsletter Editor. As we approach our centennial he will be looking for items to illustrate a publication.

The 88th **Philatelic Congress of Great Britain** will be held in Scotland this year, at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew, on 6-9 July 2006. The Secretary has details of the programme and accommodation packages.

I believe that there has been rich offerings of Scottish postal history on eBay recently. I suspect they may derive from the philatelic estate of **the late David Jefferies** of Edinburgh whom members will recall for his displays to the Society. Robert Murray recently sold his collections at auction over several sales, including three in succession for his Scottish postal history (including St Kilda), Cinderellas and Scouting. Some extraordinary prices were realised at all three sales, with some lots fetching ten or twenty times estimate! David was a signatory of the Book of Scottish Philatelists and will be particularly remembered for his research and publications with the Scottish Postmark Group.